

Moroccan American  
Center for Policy

July 9, 2009

Ms. Jean Schmidt  
Paralegal Specialist  
US Department of Justice  
10th & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Criminal Division/Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit  
Bond Building - Room 9300  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Registration No. 5648 (Moroccan-American Center for Policy)

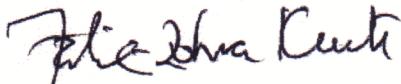
Dear Ms. Schmidt:

I am writing to confirm that the documentation listed below and pertaining to the Registrant is what is required by the Department of Justice for the filing and labeling of informational materials.

1. eNewsLetter to MACP Contact List: "Election Results Underscore Morocco's Model for Reform" (7/9/2009)
2. Press Release posted to the MACP Website: "Local Election Results Underscore Morocco's Model of Reform: Voters Deliver Gains for Women, Youth, Local Communities, Assert Moroccan Identity in Western Sahara" (7/8/2009)

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Fatima-Zohra Kurtz  
Director of Operations  
Moroccan American Management Service

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CRIMES/REGISTRATION UNIT

Moroccan  American  
Center for Policy

*eNews*

## Election Results Underscore Morocco's Model for Reform

Voters Deliver Strong Gains for Women, Youth, Local Communities;  
Assert Moroccan Identity with High Turnout in Western Sahara



2009 JUL 20 PM 2:35  
GRU/GEORGE STEPHENS

Women voters in Laâyoune, in Moroccan Western Sahara, cast their votes in local elections June 12. Voter turnout and percentage of women voters was substantially higher in Western Sahara than the national average — ISSA

Despite controversial elections in other parts of the Middle East region, Morocco continued its movement towards greater political participation with successful local elections in mid-June. The high number of votes cast by Moroccans on June 12 in internationally observed local elections underscored Morocco's ongoing reforms and marked an important step forward in its political transformation.

The *Washington Post* columnist Anne Applebaum remarked on the contrast in a June 30 commentary from Rabat, "In Morocco:

An Alternative to Iran," crediting Morocco for finding both the will and a way to change that offered a model for other Muslim and Arab nations:

**"[Morocco] has over the past decade undergone a slow but profound transformation from traditional monarchy to constitutional monarchy, acquiring along the way real political parties, a relatively free press, new political leaders—the mayor of Marrakesh is a 33-year-old woman—and a set of family laws that strive to be compatible both with sharia and international conventions on human rights."**

More than 7 million Moroccans from 1,503 communities turned out to elect 27,795 council members. This included nearly 2 million new voters, 60% of whom were Moroccans age 18-35. The high turnout (52.4% nationwide) was a clear victory for the government's efforts to promote key reforms—including elevating the role of women, decentralizing government, and empowering local communities to take more control of their future through more direct decision-making concerning services and economic development.

#### **Women Elected to Local Leadership Positions**

Voters delivered especially significant gains to women candidates, with women winning 17% of the total council member seats, up from .4% in the 2003 local elections. Local councils responded by elevating a number of new women officials to key leadership positions, including:

- \* - **Fatima Boujenah** became the youngest female local council leader in the southern Moroccan community of Tata, at just 21 years of age;
- \* - **Fatima Ezzehra Mansouri**, a 33-year-old woman became the first female mayor of Marrakech.

#### **Western Sahara Asserts Moroccan Identity with Highest Voter Participation**

Voters in the disputed Western Sahara sent a particularly strong message. With the nation's highest rate of voter turnout (66.7%) and a high percentage of women voters, local residents made a strong assertion of their Moroccan identity, rejecting a call by the Polisario Front to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to keep local Saharawis from voting. Turnout in Guelmim-Smara, Laayoune-Boujdour-Sakia Hamra, and Oued Dahab Laguira, all in Western Sahara, was 69.1%, 61.5%, and 67.7% respectively, compared with 30.1% in Greater Casablanca, 45.63% in Rabat-Salé-Semmour-Zaer, 49.89% in Tanger-Tétouan, 60.22% in Marrakesh-Tensift-Al Haouz, and 53.53% in Fès-Boulamane. Political commentator and Director of the New York based American Center for Democracy (ACD), Rachel Ehrenfeld, noted the political importance: "local inhabitants' active participation demonstrated their self-identification as Moroccan citizens. The Saharans clearly prefer Morocco's reform-oriented government to

Algeria's repressive regime." UN-mediated negotiations to end the more than 30-year dispute over W. Sahara sovereignty may have shown little progress to date. But "citizens of this increasingly prosperous, stable, and peaceful region have resoundingly and independently reasserted their Moroccan identity," said Gregory Copley, President of the Washington-based International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA), who led an international delegation of more than 150 election observers.

### **Elections "Free and Fair": International and Moroccan Observers**

Morocco's local elections took place without significant disruption or questions. "The elections were remarkable for their transparency, thoroughness of preparation, civic involvement, and fairness," said Copley. International observers from both ISSA and New York-based American Center for Democracy (ACD) studied the elections' unique role in transforming Moroccan society and the long-standing issue of sovereignty of Morocco's Sahara region. They worked closely with Morocco's Human Rights Advisory Council (CCDH), which deployed 119 observers and 12 coordinators at polling places across Morocco, ensuring the conduct of the local elections was "free and fair," according to CCDH chairman Ahmed Herzenni. ACD senior fellow Leslie Lebel concurred, "We were impressed because we've seen very clearly that people were well-acquainted with the rules and were well-prepared for the elections. Everything took place in very good conditions."

### **Continuing Social Progress Common Theme in Diverse Views on Local Issues**

The elections were also impressive as vehicles for expressing a diversity of public opinions on how to best solve local issues concerning basic services and development. Eight parties won 90% of the seats and 84% of the votes, including government coalition parties Istiqlal, National Rally of Independents (RNI), Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), and Progress and Socialism Party (PPS), and opposition parties Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), Popular Movement (MP), Justice and Development Party (PJD), and Constitutional Union (UC). PAM, a new reform-minded party many associated with the King's reforms, won a plurality of votes, 21.7%, and 6,015 seats. The moderate Islamist PJD came in sixth with 5.5%. Visiting fellow at the Saban Center of the Brookings Institution, Professor Maati Monjib of Mohammed V University, observed that "PJD proved once again to be the strongest and most structured party in the cities. It came in first with 16% of the seats in towns of 35,000 inhabitants or more," which he believes "provide a clearer bellwether of popular political preferences."

The local elections, benefiting a diversity of parties, worked to validate ongoing efforts by the political leadership to unify a diverse population while recognizing important regional differences and the role each group - women, Berbers, Arabs, Sahrawis, Islamists - plays in society. "Morocco's efforts to unify its diverse population of Arabs, Berbers, Jews, and other small minorities are impressive," said Ehrenfeld.

ISSA's report goes further, stating, "The local elections were of strategic importance because they reflected a standard and a methodology which should serve as a model for nationals elsewhere. They represented a process by which a nation could reinvigorate its economic and social dynamic through the devolution of the democracy process to every level and geographic aspect of society."

For more on the official results, please visit: [http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/politics/local\\_elections\\_fin/view](http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/politics/local_elections_fin/view)  
[http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/politics/local\\_elections\\_fa/view](http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/politics/local_elections_fa/view)

For more on the ISSA report, please visit: <http://www.strategicstudies.org/>

For Rachel Ehrenfeld's commentary in Forbes, please visit: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/17/islam-election-king-mohammed-opinions-contributors-morocco.html>

For blog column on Election results, "The Western Sahara Dispute: All Over But the Shouting," please visit:  
<http://med-atlantic.blogspot.com/2009/06/western-sahara-dispute-all-over-but.htm>

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Additional information is available at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Tuesday, July 7, 2009**

## **Local Election Results Underscore Morocco's Model of Reform: Voters Deliver Gains for Women, Youth, Local Communities, Assert Moroccan Identity in Western Sahara**

**Contrast with other elections in region noted by *Washington Post* column, "In Morocco, An Alternative to Iran;" Morocco cited as positive model on democracy, human rights**

**Washington, DC** – With follow-up community council action and polling results now in, the message from voters who turned out in very high numbers for Morocco's recent local elections is seen as validation for key elements of the nation's ongoing reforms and political transformation—elevating women and young candidates to positions of leadership, empowering local communities to take more control of their future, and ensuring elections are transparent, free, and fair. Voters in the Western Sahara region sent a strong message asserting their identification with Morocco, registering the nation's highest level of voter participation in the internationally monitored elections.

The contrast with other recent elections in the region was noted by *Washington Post* columnist Anne Applebaum in a June 30 column written from Rabat, "In Morocco, An Alternative to Iran." She credited Morocco for finding both the will and a way to change democratically, which offered a model for other Muslim and Arab nations:

"[Morocco] has over the past decade undergone a slow but profound transformation from traditional monarchy to constitutional monarchy, acquiring along the way real political parties, a relatively free press, new political leaders—the mayor of Marrakesh is a 33-year-old woman—and a set of family laws that strive to be compatible both with Sharia and international conventions on human rights."

Large numbers of Moroccans—more than 7 million from 1,503 communities (52% voter turnout nationwide)—went to the polls for the June local elections, held every six years to fill nearly 28,000 local and regional council positions and select members of the national Chamber of Counselors. The highest level of voter turnout (67%) came in the Moroccan-region of the Western Sahara, where local residents asserted their Moroccan identity with enthusiastic participation in the elections, rejecting a call by the Polisario Front to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to keep Sahrawis in the disputed region from voting.

Voters gave some of the most dramatic gains to women, who made up 17% of those elected—including Fatima Zahra Mansouri, the first female mayor of Marrakesh, one of Morocco's largest cities and key tourist centers. Participation by young people during this election cycle—60% of the nearly 2 million newly registered voters were between the ages of 18 to 35—was impressive, as was the election of 21-year-old Fatima Boujenah, Morocco's youngest ever female local council leader, from the southern Moroccan community of Tata.

The *Washington Post* column in particular noted the success of Morocco's Truth and Reconciliation Commission—unprecedented in the region—which was established in 2004 and held public, televised hearings to investigate alleged human rights violations from Morocco's past. The independent commission's final recommendations, including judicial reforms and compensation to thousands of victims of past abuses, were endorsed and implemented by King Mohammed VI and Morocco's parliament.

"These achievements are part of Morocco's broader success story of substantial and real reforms, promoted by King Mohammed VI and Morocco's elected leaders, and validated by voters in Morocco's local elections," said Robert M. Holley, executive director of the Moroccan American Center for Policy. "Today, millions of Moroccans are saying "yes" to both the rewards and responsibilities of a stronger democracy and increasingly open political system. That's setting a positive standard for other nations across the region."

"I was in the Sahara the last week of the election campaign and was especially impressed with the enthusiasm of local party leaders and voters promoting their candidates day and night across the region," said Holley. "Their active campaigning and high voter turnout sends a clear signal beyond Morocco about how many Sahrawis paid attention to the Polisario's repeated calls for a boycott to the UN to stop them from voting for their own local leadership."

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**The Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP)** is a non-profit organization whose principal mission is to inform opinion makers, government officials and interested publics in the United States about political and social developments in Morocco and the role being played by the Kingdom of Morocco in broader strategic developments in North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. For more, please visit [www.moroccanamericanpolicy.org](http://www.moroccanamericanpolicy.org)

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